IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of defining qualities for a digital image signal encoded beforehand, ~~characterized in that it consists of~~ comprising defining a ~~predetermined number~~ plurality of quality modes each corresponding to at least one decoding parameter of the digital signal, ~~this definition being made~~ on the basis of rate information provided via a graphical interface and perception quality information provided via [[the]] a visualization of the decoded digital signal, wherein a digital image in a given one of the quality modes is obtained by decoding the digital image signal encoded beforehand using at least one decoding parameter corresponding to the given quality mode, and wherein all of the quality modes defined and only the quality modes defined are made accessible to a final user.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it consists of defining~~ wherein there are three quality modes, including a ~~so-called "low"~~ low quality mode, a ~~so-called "normal"~~ normal quality mode, and a ~~so-called "high"~~ high quality mode.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a predetermined number of quality layers is associated with each quality mode.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the decoding parameter is [[said]] the number of quality layers.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each quality mode corresponds to the decoding of a predetermined quantity of data representing the digital signal.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises a step consisting of~~ further comprising storing [[said]] the at least one decoding ~~parameters~~ parameter in a file to be transmitted to a final user to deduce therefrom, according to the quality mode chosen by the user, the corresponding decoding parameter.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 6, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the file is in SWF format.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising an initializing step ~~consisting~~ of determining default values of the number of quality layers to be associated with each quality mode, corresponding to mutually different quantities of data representing the digital signal.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rate information is represented in the form of a graph illustrating the size of the image represented by [[said]] the digital signal as a function of the number of quality layers.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the predetermined number of quality layers is represented in the form of a cursor simultaneously with the visualization of the decoded digital signal.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the digital signal is a signal representing an image encoded according to the JPEG2000 standard.

12. (Currently Amended) A device for defining qualities for a digital image signal encoded beforehand, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising means for defining a ~~predetermined number~~ plurality of quality modes each corresponding to at least one decoding parameter of the digital signal, ~~this definition being made~~ on the basis of rate information provided via a graphical interface and perception quality information provided via [[the]] a visualization of the decoded digital signal, wherein a digital image in a given one of the quality modes is obtained by decoding the digital image signal encoded beforehand using at least one decoding parameter corresponding to the given quality mode, and wherein all of the quality modes defined and only the quality modes defined are made accessible to a final user.

13. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that it consists of defining~~ wherein three are three quality modes, including a ~~so-called "low"~~ low quality mode, a ~~so-called "normal"~~ normal quality mode, and a ~~so-called "high"~~ high quality mode.

14. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a predetermined number of quality layers is associated with each quality mode.

15. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 14, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the decoding parameter is [[said]] the number of quality layers.

16. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each quality mode corresponds to the decoding of a predetermined quantity of data representing the digital signal.

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising means for storing [[said]] the at least one decoding ~~parameters~~ parameter in a file to be transmitted to a final user to deduce therefrom, according to the quality mode chosen by the user, the corresponding decoding parameter.

18. (Currently Amended) A device according to ~~the preceding~~ claim 17, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the file is in SWF format.

19. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising initializing means for determining default values of the number of quality layers to be associated with each quality mode, corresponding to mutually different quantities of data representing the digital signal.

20. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the rate information is represented in the form of a graph illustrating the size of the image represented by [[said]] the digital signal as a function of the number of quality layers.

21. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that said~~ wherein the predetermined number of quality layers is represented in the form of a cursor simultaneously with the visualization of the decoded digital signal.

22. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the digital signal is a signal representing an image encoded according to the JPEG2000 standard.

23. (Canceled)